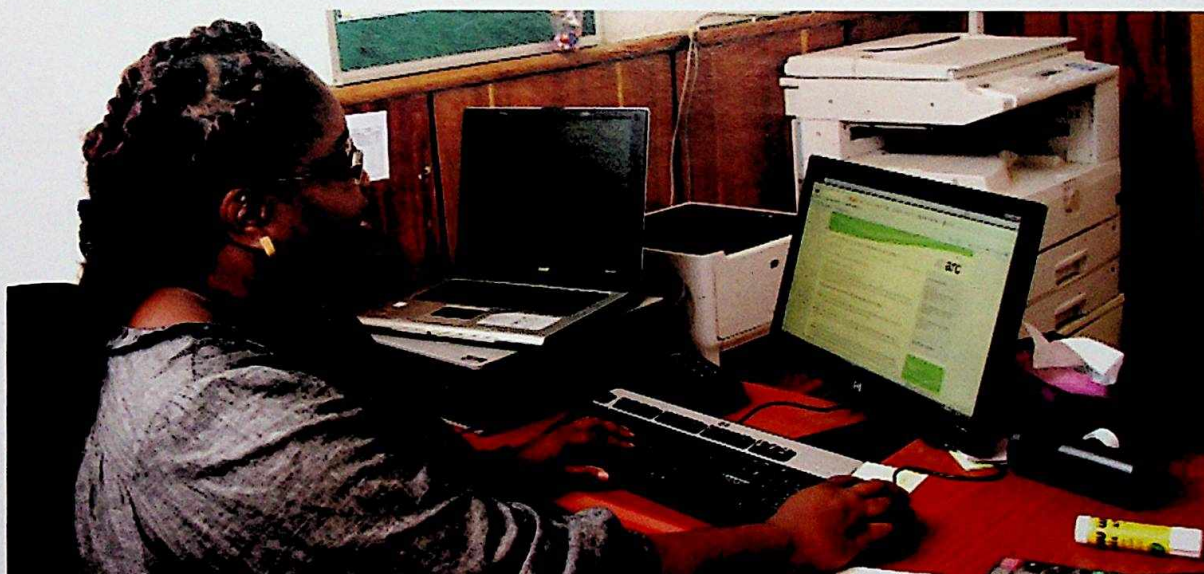


# The mainstreaming of gender and social inclusion in state policy and planning

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The State Partnership for Accountability, Responsiveness and Capability (SPARC) Programme has made commitments to promoting gender equality and social inclusion in its technical support to state partners. Those commitments are in line with the UK Department for International Development (DFID) recognition that gender equality and social inclusion are important goals and are vital to poverty elimination and the achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

In order to make good that commitment, SPARC has developed its own capacity for Gender and Social Inclusion (G&SI) mainstreaming to enable staff to make appropriate G&SI considerations in their work and to provide quality technical support and advice to government partners. A comprehensive Gender Mainstreaming Guide has been produced as a quick and handy toolkit to support this capacity development.



**Titilope Fakoya (Gender, Social Inclusion & Voice and Accountability consultant) working in the Jigawa state office in Dutse.**

In 2009, all of the DFID State Level Programmes (SLPs) in Nigeria identified weaknesses and the need to build capacity in the area of gender and social inclusion. To respond to these capacity-building needs, the SLPs made commitments to first build their own in-house capacity on gender and social inclusion and then apply the skills base developed to building capacity of their respective

state partners in promoting gender and inclusion. As part of the process of building in-house capacity, SPARC is providing G&SI training and tools to support its staff. In 2010, analyses conducted by the Programme began to target entry points for support to government partners in the state policy and planning process. These are summarised by state in the following sections.

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## Enugu State

As a result of collaborative work between the SPARC Gender Focal Person (GFP), the Enugu State Economic Planning Commission (ESEPC), and the Ministry of Gender and Social Development, a G&SI session was included in the MTSS strategy sessions and, for the first time, G&SI assessments informed the development of sector strategies in the state's MTSS. Additionally, the GFP undertook a G&SI analysis of the Enugu State Medium Term Implementation Plan (MTIP) and seven draft MTSSs with a view to encouraging the ESEPC and the respective MDAs preparing their MTSSs to pay greater attention to G&SI issues in their medium-term planning processes.

## Jigawa State

SPARC conducted a G&SI review of the Comprehensive Development Framework (CDF) to focus policy on economic empowerment targets for women, young people, and persons with special needs, as well as considering the strategies for attaining them. Working with the Ministry for Women's Affairs and Social Development and the Bureau of Economic Planning and Development (the state's central planning agency, responsible for providing direction and guidance on all planning and budget issues), gender issues were mainstreamed into the CDF and subsequently into other sectoral policies.

The results of this include a stronger focus on women's empowerment in the CDF, with clearly-articulated policies and strategies directed at women, youth and other disadvantaged groups in the state.

## Kano State

To ensure the application of strategic and systemic solutions to G&SI issues, the Ministry of Women's Affairs and Social Development (MoWASD), with support from SPARC through its support to the Ministry of Planning and Budget, developed a programme on issues surrounding poverty amongst women, youth and persons with special needs. The costed activities, goals and objectives of these programmes and projects over the medium term (2009–2011) have become the basis for the pilot Medium Term Sector Strategy (MTSS) for this sector.

As a follow-up to the progress made on the pilot MTSS, a G&SI situational analysis of the policy environment and capacity-building of Gender Focal Persons was conducted to identify challenges and proffer ways of addressing them.

## Kaduna State

The Kaduna SPARC team carried out a G&SI appraisal exercise on the three MTSSs developed by the Health, Education and Agriculture sectors, as well as the Kaduna State Development Plan. The objective was to identify gaps in the policy

documents and ensure that appropriate recommendations were made and presented to the government for inclusion in the next review of the documents. This will help to ensure that the state's overarching policy documents and processes address G&SI issues and provide the budgetary allocations required for effective policy responses and state interventions in response to G&SI issues in the state.

## Lagos State

A common strategy in SPARC-supported states for mainstreaming G&SI is providing technical support to ministries of Economic Planning to ensure that issues of G&SI are addressed systemically through the state development plans and MTSSs. In Lagos State, the government has commenced drafting and reviewing the State Development Plan (SDP) – a 15-year economic and social development blueprint. SPARC, in collaboration with the Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget, carried out a G&SI review of the SDP process to ensure that issues of G&SI are highlighted and taken into consideration to ensure a high-quality plan that responds to the needs of the constituent groups that make up Lagos State. Furthermore, Planning Officers from 14 sectors have been trained to continue mainstreaming G&SI in the planning processes.

### Lessons learned

It is recognised that mainstreaming G&SI is a long-term process. But, in a short space of time, a lot has already been achieved by the SLPs. Building capacity within the programmes and state partners is a first step. Building G&SI issues into the state development planning process is a critical next step. Now it is a question of continuing this effort to ensure progress in future years is incremental.

The SPARC Gender Mainstreaming Guide is available on [www.sparc-nigeria.com](http://www.sparc-nigeria.com)

### For more information

Email: [info@sparc-nigeria.com](mailto:info@sparc-nigeria.com)

Telephone: +234 (0) 7029 682832

Visit our website: [www.sparc-nigeria.com](http://www.sparc-nigeria.com)



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